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SUBJECT: PEREZ MOLINA OUTLINES SECOND-ROUND STRATEGY

Classified By: Ambassador James M. Derham for reasons 1.4 (b&d).

Summary

11. (C) During a September 18 meeting with the Ambassador, center-right presidential candidate Otto Perez Molina of the Partido Patriota outlined his strategy for winning the November 4 run-off election with the support of voters of the center-right GANA. Perez

Seeking Support of CASA and GANA Voters

12. (C) The Ambassador and DCM met with Partido Patriota Presidential Candidate Otto Perez Molina and the head of his legislative block, Roxana Baldetti, over breakfast at the Residence on September 18. Perez Molina and Baldetti looked tired and said they had two departments where GANA will apparently support the rival UNE are Zacapa and Baja Verapaz. Perez Molina said he would meet with Tono Coro, popular Mayor of Santa Catarina Pinula and chairman of GANA's committee for the suburbs of Guatemala City, on September 19 and was confident that they would secure his support in the Perez Molina was less sanguine about getting any support from the Unionista Party, led by Guatemala City Mayor and former President Alvaro Arzu

13. (C) Perez Molina said that the Partido Patriota's strategy in the second round will be to get enough mayors to cross over to the Partido P increasing its majority of Guatemala City's vote. Perez Molina said that a recent Patriota poll taken just in Guatemala City and its suburbs s

14. (C) Perez Molina is confident that key GANA leaders will support him. Besides the departmental leaders and mayors who he claims already s and virtually all of its mayors and departmental leaders favor an alliance with the Patriotas. Some GANA legislators have already publicly end

15. (C) GANA Congressional bench leader Jorge Mendez Herbruger separately told Pol/Econ Couns September 18 that he believes that a majority -- Molina's efforts to win the support of GANA mayors going into the second round would be largely successful.

Perez Claims Campaign Free of Drug Money

16. (C) In regards to financing, Perez Molina told the Ambassador that his campaign has what it needs. After some initial reluctance on the p to the other campaign, but that he was certain that they are betting on his victory. He said that he is satisfied with the coverage and advert confident that narco money had not found its way into his campaign. Perez Molina said that he was certain that it had not. When the Ambassad campaign the less-bad brother from Morales had offered support for his campaign, but as he got to know the Mendozas he asked them to leave his

17. (C) The Ambassador asked Perez Molina and Baldetti who they envisioned presiding over Congress in January, 2008, and commented on the negs FRG Secretary General Rios Montt were given the position. Baldetti said that the Patriotas are prepared to negotiate the Presidency of Congress preside over the next Congress.

Cabinet Positions

18. (C) In response to the Ambassador's question regarding who would be potential members of a Perez Molina Administration's economic, security and foreign policy team, Perez Molina said that no decisic that security and job creation are the two themes of the Patriota presidential campaign, and that it is important that Perez Molina have operat heart-to-heart with Florido, however, and tell him to get to work!

Human Rights Scrutiny

19. (C) The Ambassador said that if he were elected, Perez Molina would face a lot of scrutiny from human rights groups that would look carefu with the local population. According to Perez Molina, the military's strategy before his arrival had been to identify anyone who did not move time in Nebaj he was able to change the outlook of the military units operating there, and that the army's relationship with the local communit

110. (C) In regards to his role as Director of Intelligence, Perez Molina said that he was not an intelligence officer and that he had been ch military officers, on the fate of Bamaca was apocryphal.

Congressional Action on National Budget

111. (C) In regards to issues currently pending before Congress, Baldetti said that she is hopeful that Guatemala's Congress will pass the FY- (UNE, GANA and Patriota) to pass the budget before the November 4 election. The Patriotas are worried about the imminent expiration of the ext

Comment

112. (C) Perez Molina's optimism about being the beneficiary of a majority of GANA and CASA party votes in the second round is shared by many narco-money, it is improbable that none of it has found its way into Perez Molina's campaign, but we currently have no grounds to suspect that Derham